

AMENDED IN SENATE JANUARY 12, 2016

AMENDED IN SENATE JANUARY 6, 2016

Senate Joint Resolution

No. 19

Introduced by Senator Jackson

(Principal coauthors: Assembly Members Atkins and Cristina Garcia)

August 26, 2015

Senate Joint Resolution No. 19—Relative to women’s reproductive health.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SJR 19, as amended, Jackson. Women’s reproductive health.

This measure would request the President and the Congress of the United States to express their support for access to comprehensive reproductive health care, including the services provided by Planned Parenthood, and to oppose efforts to eliminate federal funding for Planned Parenthood.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, January 22, 2016, marks the anniversary of the
2 United States Supreme Court’s landmark decision in *Roe v. Wade*,
3 which ~~held~~ *acknowledged* that every woman has a fundamental
4 right to control her own reproductive decisions and decide whether
5 to end or continue a pregnancy, and is an occasion that deserves
6 recognition; and
7 WHEREAS, The 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision, making access
8 to abortion safe and legal, has greatly improved the health of
9 women and families; and
10 WHEREAS, *Roe v. Wade* has been the cornerstone of women’s
11 remarkable strides toward equality in the past four decades, and

1 reproductive freedom is critical to a woman's ability to participate
2 fully in the social, political, and economic life of the community;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, California is committed to protecting the public
5 health and welfare of all its residents, and recognizes that access
6 to reproductive health services, including family planning and
7 prenatal care, supports individuals and their families by ensuring
8 that babies are planned, wanted, and healthy; and

9 WHEREAS, California recognizes the importance of Planned
10 Parenthood as one of California's largest providers of women's
11 preventive and reproductive health care services, operating 115
12 community-based health centers across the state, which provide
13 more than 1.6 million patient visits a year; and

14 WHEREAS, Planned Parenthood provides comprehensive health
15 care services to women and men, which may include well-woman
16 examinations, birth control, testing and treatment of sexually
17 transmitted infections and HIV, pregnancy tests, life-saving cancer
18 screenings, sex education, prenatal care, primary care services,
19 and abortion services; and

20 WHEREAS, Nationwide, during 4.6 million health center visits
21 in 2013, Planned Parenthood provided services, including nearly
22 400,000 Pap smear tests, 500,000 breast examinations, 1.1 million
23 pregnancy tests, 3.6 million provisions of birth control information
24 and services, and 4.5 million tests and treatments for sexually
25 transmitted illnesses (including HIV), to approximately 2.7 million
26 patients, almost 80 percent of whom were living with incomes at
27 or below 150 percent of the federal poverty level; and

28 WHEREAS, By providing millions of women with access to
29 contraceptive services, public funding of Planned Parenthood helps
30 women to avoid an estimated 516,000 unplanned pregnancies each
31 year nationwide; and

32 WHEREAS, A sudden defunding of Planned Parenthood's health
33 centers by federal or state governments would put patients across
34 California, particularly members of underserved communities, at
35 a significant disadvantage relating to their general health care
36 because Planned Parenthood is often the only source of health care
37 services for so many Californians; and

38 WHEREAS, Violence against abortion providers and laws that
39 create barriers to abortion endanger the lives of both men and
40 women; and

1 WHEREAS, Reports have found that threats of harassment,
2 intimidation, and violence against women's health clinics have
3 doubled since 2010, and as recently as November 27, 2015, a
4 Planned Parenthood clinic was the target of a heinous act of
5 domestic terrorism which resulted in the deaths of three people
6 and nonfatal injuries to nine others; and

7 WHEREAS, The State of California stands in strong support of
8 Roe v. Wade and the work of Planned Parenthood, and of women's
9 reproductive health, and ~~upholds each woman's~~ *respects the*
10 *principle that each woman has a* fundamental right to make
11 decisions regarding her pregnancy; now, therefore, be it

12 *Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of*
13 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature urges the President of the
14 United States and Congress to express their support for access to
15 comprehensive reproductive health care, including the services
16 provided by Planned Parenthood and a woman's fundamental right
17 to control her own reproductive decisions, and to strongly oppose
18 efforts to eliminate federal funding for Planned Parenthood; and
19 be it further

20 *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
21 this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
22 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the
23 Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and
24 Representative from California in the Congress of the United
25 States.